

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 EUR-12  
ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 L-03 PA-01 MMO-01 IOE-00  
AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 /098 W  
----- 113660 /43

P 131944Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7958  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 36869

NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: APUB, SCUL, UR  
SUBJECT: SOVIET MODIFICATIONS OF UNESCO BICENTENNIAL  
ISSUE

REF: (A) SECSTATE 279533, (B) STATE 280102, (C)  
MOSCOW 17869, (D) MOSCOW 17989, (E) NAIROBI 12809

1. PERMREP MET MONDAY, DEC. 13, FIRST DATE AVAILABLE  
WITH DG M'BOW TO DISCUSS SOVIET VIOLATIONS OF UNESCO  
RULES BY ALTERING CONTENT OF BICENTENNIAL EDITION OF  
COURIER. M'BOW SAID HE HAD BEEN EXPECTING OUR DEMARCHE  
AND WAS FULLY APPRAISED OF THE SITUATION. HE SAID THAT  
AS SOON AS HE LEARNED OF THE ALTERATIONS, HE DIRECTED  
HIS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ADMINISTRATION,  
RIGAUD (FRANCE) UNDER WHOSE SECTOR THE JOURNAL  
IS ADMINISTERED, TO SEND A LETTER TO THE SOVIET  
MISSION TO UNESCO PROTESTING THE VIOLATION OF THE  
UNESCO RULES. M'BOW SAID HE ALSO MET PERSONALLY WITH  
AMBASSADOR PIRADOV (USSR DEL.) ON THE SUBJECT OF THE  
COURIER IN NAIROBI. HE SAID PIRADOV EXPRESSED SURPRISE  
AND EMBARRASSMENT. IN RESPONSE TO M'BOW'S QUESTIONS,  
PIRADOV PLEADED IGNORANCE AND PROMISED A REPLY TO THE  
LETTER FROM MOSCOW BY THE FIRST PART OF DECEMBER.

2. DURING THE MEETING M'BOW PHONED RIGAUD TO ASK IF  
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THERE HAD BEEN ANY FURTHER RESPONSE TO THE LETTER.

RIGAUD STATED THAT NO REPLY HAS AS YET BEEN RECEIVED. M'BOW TOLD RIGAUD TO KEEP HIM FULLY INFORMED OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS. M'BOW SAID HE INTENDS TO FOLLOW UP ON THE MATTER AS THE SOVIET ACTION WAS A CLEAR VIOLATION OF UNESCO RULES AND PRACTICES. HE AGREED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US WHEN HE HAS RECEIVED A REPLY AND LET US KNOW ITS SUBSTANCE. M'BOW SUGGESTED WE TALK WITH RIGAUD TO GET A COPY OF THEIR LETTER SO AS TO BE APPRAISED OF ITS CONTENTS. HE SAID THEIR LETTER DEMANDED FULL EXPLANATION, BUT DID NOT ASK FOR A REPRINT OF THE EDITION.

3. FOLLOWING MEETING WITH M'BOW WE TALKED WITH RIGEAU TO ASCERTAIN MORE PRECISELY THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER TO THE SOVIETS. RIGEAU PROMISED TO GIVE US A COPY WHEN HIS FILES ARRIVED FROM NAIROBI SINCE THE LETTER WAS DRAFTED THERE. HE DID SUMMARIZE THE CONTENTS BY SAYING THAT HE HAD STATED THAT THE SOVIETS ACTION WAS A VIOLATION OF UNESCO RULES, THAT NO AUTHORIZATION HAD BEEN GIVEN FOR ANY CHANGE OR EDITING OF THE COURIER. RIGEAU SAID THAT THE LETTER DID NOT ASK THAT THE EDITION BE REPRINTED, BUT CALLED FOR A COMPLETE EXPLANATION. RIGEAU SAID THAT THEY WANTED TO SEE THE SOVIET REPLY FIRST AND THAT EITHER A REPRINT OR AN ADDENDUM NOTING THE CHANGES MADE WAS A POSSIBILITY. RIGEAU FURTHER SAID HE HAD RECENTLY CALLED TO SOVIET MISSION TO INQUIRE OF THE RESPONSE AND HAD BEEN TOLD THAT IT WAS ON ITS WAY AND WOULD ARRIVE, "IN A FEW DAYS". RIGEAU SAID THAT HE HAD ALSO TALKED WITH PIRADOV AND TOLD HIM THAT IT WAS INCONCEIVABLE THAT CHANGES SHOULD HAVE BEEN MADE WITHOUT UNESCO APPROVAL AND THAT HE WONDERED WHAT THE SOVIET RESPONSE WOULD

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ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 L-03 PA-01 MMO-01 IOE-00  
AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 /098 W  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7959  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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HAVE BEEN HAD SIMILAR CHANGES BEEN MADE IN THE COURIER  
EDITION THAT MARKED THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LENIN.

4. M'BOW SEEMED TO ENJOY HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY  
TO GET ON THE SOVIET'S BACK AND INDICATED HE WAS  
PLEASED THAT WE HAD MADE A CALL TO RAISE THE MATTER.  
THIS SHOULD GIVE M'BOW A CHIT TO PLAY AGAINST THE  
SOVIETS IN THE EVENT OF ANY ATTEMPTED PRESSURE AGAINST  
HIM ON OTHER ISSUES. ON BALANCE OUR IMPRESSION IS  
THAT HE DOES INTEND TO FOLLOW UP PARTLY BECAUSE  
UNESCO RULES WERE IN FACT VIOLATED AND M'BOW DEFINITELY  
DOES NOT LIKE THIS, REFERENCE HIS HANDLING OF THE  
ROMANIAN DUMITRESSCU CASE, AND PARTLY BECAUSE THIS  
WILL STRENGTHEN HIS HAND AGAINST ANY FUTURE SOVIET  
COMPLAINTS AGAINST HIM.

RUSH

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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